

MINUTES OF THE
MARICOPA ASSOCIATION OF GOVERNMENTS
SOLID WASTE ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING

Thursday, December 3, 1998
MAG Office Building
Phoenix, Arizona

MEMBERS ATTENDING

Tom Martinsen, Paradise Valley, Chairman
*Avondale: Bill Bates
*Buckeye: Ron Long
*Carefree: Frank Guerriero
*Chandler: Carl Doak
*Gila Bend: Fred Hull
Gila River Indian Community: Candice Bell
Gilbert: Bill Hancock
Glendale: Mike Hoyt
*Litchfield Park: Bob Gaunt
*Maricopa County: Ash Madhok
Mesa: Keno Hawker
Peoria: Larry Fudurich
Phoenix: Ron Serio for Bruce Henning
*Salt River Pima-Maricopa Indian
Community: Steve Parker
Scottsdale: Mark Powell for Rick Pence
Surprise: Bob Zobel
Tempe: George Elley

Tolleson: Manuel Domingez
Wickenburg: Tom Candelaria
Arizona Clean and Beautiful: Karen Holloway
for Leandra Lewis
Arizona Recycling Coalition: Jeff Connell
*Arizona State University: David Pijawka
Sierra Club: Doug Barnes
Solid Waste Association of North America:
Willie Black
Southwest Public Recycling Association:
Mitra Khazai
Citizen Representative: Louis Rieckhoff
Arizona Chamber of Commerce: David Wallis
*AZ Dept of Commerce, Environmental
Business Development: Seth Hudson
*Arizona Public Service: Bill O'Connor
*Salt River Project: Dan Casiraro
*Valley Forward: Don Cassano

*Those members neither present nor represented by proxy.

OTHERS PRESENT

Lindy Bauer, MAG
Rita Walton, MAG

Laura Stegall, MAG
Drenan Dudley, MAG

1. Call to Order

A meeting of the MAG Solid Waste Advisory Committee was held on Thursday, December 3, 1998 at 10:00 a.m. Tom Martinsen, Town of Paradise Valley, Chairman, announced that a quorum was not yet present. Consequently, agenda items could only be discussed and no action taken.

2. Introductions

Members of the Committee introduced themselves and provided information on their personal experience in solid waste issues and the background of their organization in solid waste issues.

3. MAG Regional Solid Waste Management Plan

Drenan Dudley, Maricopa Association of Governments, gave a presentation on the MAG Regional Solid Waste Management Plan. Ms. Dudley indicated that before providing information on the MAG Solid Waste Management Plan that it might be helpful to provide information on MAG as an organization.

MAG is the Council of Governments for the Phoenix Metropolitan Area. An association of governments is a public organization that unites multiple governments in the region, serves local governments and their citizens and assists in integrating activities at all levels of government. The policy structure of MAG includes advisory committees, such as the Solid Waste Advisory Committee, which serve in an advisory capacity to the MAG Management Committee and the MAG Regional Council on pertinent solid waste issues. The MAG members include 24 Cities and Town, Maricopa County and two Indian Communities. In addition, the Arizona Department of Transportation and the Citizens Transportation Oversight Committee are members.

Ms. Dudley also indicated that regional planning occurs and is coordinated in many areas at MAG including land use, transportation, human services and the environment. In Environmental Programs MAG has been designated the Planning Agency in Air Quality, Water Quality and Solid Waste.

In accordance with this role, MAG has completed several projects in solid waste. The Regional Solid Waste Stream Study, 1991, completed the objective of developing a regional information base on solid waste characteristics, generation and disposal. An information management system was developed during this project entitled the Solid Waste Information Management System (SWIMS). The Waste Stream Study was followed by the Assessment of Local and Regional Waste Management Needs.

Subsequently, the MAG Regional Council established a scope of work for producing the MAG Regional Solid Waste Management Plan. A copy of the Plan was distributed to the members. Ms. Dudley indicated that the Plan process was undertaken by the MAG Solid Waste Coordinating Committee, composed primarily of elected officials; the Solid Waste Technical Advisory Committee, composed of MAG member agencies with an expertise in Solid Waste Management; and two working groups.

The Plan contains several elements: historical background, goals, description of the regional waste stream, evaluation of waste problems, review of financing options, description of current solid waste programs and facilities, identification of future needs and strategies for integrated solid waste management.

The MAG member cities and towns, Maricopa County, MAG, the State of Arizona and the private sector all have a role in implementation of the Plan as described in the Plan. Finally, to ensure that the Plan contains current information, processes were included in the Plan for maintenance purposes. The amendment process assures that information is current and that only facilities consistent with the Plan will be developed. The review process includes consideration of changes in programs and facilities; the effects of new legislation, rules and best management practices; and new or innovative technologies that are pertinent to the Plan.

Chairman Martinsen asked about the current status of the Plan.

Ms. Dudley indicated that the Committee could decide if the Plan was in need of an update after they have had time to review the Plan.

Manuel Dominguez, City of Tolleson, asked if the information that the jurisdictions provided through the Solid Waste Information Collection Effort was being used since the survey utilized tables from the Plan.

Ms. Dudley indicated that information provided through the collection effort was greatly appreciated and it is being used in the update of the Solid Waste Information Management System which would be discussed later in the meeting.

4. MAG Regional Recycling Information Exchange Project

Ms. Dudley gave a presentation on the MAG Regional Recycling Information Exchange Project. On March 19, 1998, the Maricopa Association of Governments (MAG) was awarded funding from the Arizona Department of Environmental Quality for the Regional Recycling Information Exchange project. The project will accomplish four goals:

- encouraging the development of recycling programs
- establishing a recycling website
- updating the Solid Waste Information Management System (SWIMS)
- holding regional forums to discuss recycling and solid waste issues

Ms. Dudley indicated that several deliverables were associated with the grant: the upgrade of the Solid Waste Information Management System database, a recycling website, a recycling program guidance document for the MAG region, a regional case studies document and recommendations for possible action by the MAG Regional Council. Ms. Dudley then indicated that Rita Walton, MAG Policy and Information Manager, would provide further information on the Solid Waste Information Management System (SWIMS).

Ms. Walton indicated that SWIMS is an overall planning instrument that incorporates socioeconomic, waste generation and waste disposal assumptions about the MAG region and the individual municipalities into an overall planning instrument. The database possesses the capability to calculate past trends and current activities and also make predictions about the future based on scenarios that are practical and realistic.

A unique component has been added through the Regional Recycling Information Exchange to provide information and analysis of recycling activities. SWIMS is also unique since it utilizes waste classes and individual generation rates for MAG member agencies to analyze waste management. SWIMS also recognizes other unique factors such as, commercial waste is driven by employment and therefore utilizes employment figures to calculate commercial waste generation.

The system has the capability to provide information at the region level and the local level. Ms. Walton then went through a series of scenarios and showed examples of the type of reports and maps that the system was capable of producing. In addition, she indicated that the system utilizes Geographical Information Systems.

Doug Barnes, Sierra Club, asked if the system could present information based on the different types of materials that are recycled.

Ms. Walton indicated that the system was capable of that type of analysis.

Jeff Connell, Arizona Recycling Coalition, asked about the origin of the data presented on the materials recovery facilities.

Ms. Dudley indicated that the information came from a preliminary request for information from the MAG member agencies. In addition, she indicated information is still being collected and the information presented was for illustrative purposes.

Mitra Khazai, Southwest Public Recycling Association, asked what definition of materials recovery facility was utilized.

Ms. Dudley indicated that the initial information that was reported allowed for a nonspecific definition of materials recovery facility. As the information on the facilities is analyzed by the Committee, a more specific definition could be chosen.

Councilmember Keno Hawker, City of Mesa, indicated that he was interested in analysis of data that could provide information on transportation cost savings and disposal capacity.

Ms. Walton indicated that the system is designed to provide that type of information.

5. Committee Role and Responsibilities

Chairman Martinsen began the discussion indicating that since MAG is the designated Regional Solid Waste Planning Agency, the Committee may consider several activities such as providing public information and education, creating a recycling directory, establishing model specifications for recycling product procurement, standardizing information, evaluating problems in household hazardous waste collection and disposal and reviewing the MAG Regional Solid Waste Management Plan. Chairman Martinsen indicated that involvement could be at a policy level as opposed to a programs level.

Councilmember Hawker indicated that the Committee could promote networking and facilitating discussion on solid waste management issues for example multijurisdictional composting. He also indicated that creating a recycling directory; development of specifications for procurement; and standardization of information and support of the recycling industry could be Committee activities.

Louis Rieckhoff, Citizen Representative, indicated that there is not much citizen education and creating a brochure of information on solid waste management issues could be one role for MAG.

Doug Barnes, Sierra Club, indicated that educational tools for children were often effective.

Mitra Khazai, Southwest Public Recycling Association, indicated that it is important to understand the barriers in market development activities for recycling in Arizona. In Arizona, there is a bidding out process that the local governments under go when they contract with organizations to handle the recyclables. This does not allow the jurisdiction to have much control in how the materials are marketed.

Robert Zobel, Surprise, indicated that proper disposal of household hazardous waste is a significant issue and materials often are illegally dumped in the desert. He indicated that a regional site for the collection and storage of recyclables and household hazardous waste could be discussed by the Committee. Mr. Zobel also indicated that a Regional Solid Waste Management Plan update could be useful.

Larry Fudurich, Peoria, indicated that proper disposal of household hazardous waste is a significant issue and could be discussed by the Committee. In addition, he indicated an update of the SWIMS database would be helpful since information will be available from one source.

The Committee agreed to further consider its role and discuss it at the next meeting.

Chairman Martinsen adjourned the meeting at 12:00 p.m.